

**FILED**

OCT. 04 2013

**N.J. BOARD OF NURSING**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

**PRISCILLA ALVARADO, R.N.**  
**License # NO 06045900**

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about June 18, 2012, while employed as a nurse at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, respondent learned that patient J.B. had sustained Ventricular Tachycardia, an arrhythmia. However respondent did not contact the patient's treating physician to inform him of the change in the patient's condition.
3. On or about January 10, 2012 at approximately 9:52 p.m., respondent pre-documented a patient chart by signing the "rounding sheets" for her entire shift for that

patient, up to 6:00 a.m. on January 11, 2013. Respondent maintained that nevertheless she continued to assess the patient hourly.

4. Respondent had been asked by the Board to furnish certificates of completion of all continuing education credits earned during the June 1, 2009-May 31, 2011 renewal period. Respondent indicated that she had taken the required continuing education, but she did not furnish any certificates of completion.

5. On respondent's renewal application for the 2011-2013 renewal period, respondent indicated that she would have completed all required continuing education requirements for the 2009-2011 renewal period by May 31, 2011.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's failure to notify J.B.'s treating physician of a serious arrhythmia, and respondent's engaging in pre-charting of a patient's assessments on January 10, 2012, constitute professional misconduct within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent's failure to demonstrate completion of the continuing education requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3 subjects respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

3. Respondent's indication on her 2011 renewal application that she would timely complete the 2009-2011 continuing education requirements subjects respondent to sanctions for misrepresentation or dishonesty on her application pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

## DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline suspending respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey, imposing two public reprimands, and a \$250.00 civil penalty was filed on July 15, 2013, and a copy served on respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefore.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline by way of a July 23, 2013 submission asking for consideration. Respondent demonstrated timely completion of 30 hours of continuing education during the June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2011 biennial period. Respondent did not address the reprimand for professional misconduct for her actions in January and June of 2012.

Respondent's submissions were reviewed by the Board, and the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary. The Board was satisfied by respondent's demonstration of timely completion of continuing education requirements for the 2009-2011 renewal period. Therefore, the Board found no basis for disciplinary action with regard to the continuing education requirements and determined to modify the Provisional Order of Discipline by eliminating the suspension, reprimand, and civil penalty relating to continuing education violations.

Respondent did dispute the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law regarding her actions of January and June 2012.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Oct., 2013,

ORDERED that:

1. A public reprimand is hereby imposed upon respondent for professional misconduct with respect to the failure to notify the treating physician of J.B.'s arrhythmia, and the pre-charting of assessments.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Ann Murphy PhD, APRN, FAAN  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APRN  
Board President